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Authorized By: H. D. Brewster

August 4, 1975

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SENT DEPARTMENT 2781 REPEATED INFORMATION MOSCOW 71 BONN 114.

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EMBASSY HAS NOTED THAT IN CONCLUSIONS PARA B NOTE 2 OF WATCH COMMITTEE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 6-12 (REF. AIRGRAM) RECENT SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN DECLARATIONS ON BERLIN ARE DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING OF EFFORT "TO MAKE WESTERN ACCESS TO THE CITY CONDITIONAL ON DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF THE EAST GERMAN REGIME". THIS EVALUATION OF SOVIET LIMITED OBJECTIVE FAILS TAKE ACCOUNT MOUNTING EVIDENCE THAT DEVELOPING SOVIET OFFENSIVE HAS DEEPER AND MORE FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE IN THAT IT DIRECTED AS MUCH OR EVEN MORE TOWARD CLIMINATING, OR AT LEAST ERODING, WESTERN POSITION BERLIN. IN EMBASSY'S OPINION THIS SOVIET OBJECTIVE SEEMS VERY CLEAR BOTH IN KHRUSHCHEV'S NOVEMBER 10 STATEMENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY IN GROMYKO CONVERSATION WITH KROLL (DEPTEL TO LONDON 4891), PRAVDA ARTICLE OF NOVEMBER 18 (MOSCOW TEL TO DEPT 111) AND REMARKS POLISH AMBASSADOR MOSCOW TO THOMPSON (MOSCOW TEL TO DEPT. 1114). RECOGNITION OF EAST GERMAN REGIME BY WESTERN POWERS OBVIOUSLY DESIRABLE FROM SOVIET POINT OF VIEW, BUT IN EMBASSY'S OPINION IT IS ONLY ONE FACET CURRENT SOVIET OFFENSIVE. THERE IS IN OUR VIEW DANGEROUS TENDENCY EVIDENT IN SOME WESTERN THINKING, FOR EXAMPLE IN BRITISH MEMORANDUM (EMBTel 2752), TO VIEW BERLIN PROBLEM IN NARROW CONTEXT EAST GERMAN RECOGNITION QUESTION AND TO TAILOR WESTERN RESPONSE ACCORDINGLY. IN ALL PROBABILITY SOVIETS WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TACTICALLY TO ENCOURAGE

FILED

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-2- 2781, NOVEMBER 20, 6 PM, FROM LONDON.

PUBLIC OPINION IN WEST TO VIEW PROBLEM IN THIS LIGHT IN
HOPES GENERATING PUBLIC PRESSURES IN FAVOR RECOGNITION AS
ALTERNATIVE TO BLOCKADE OR POSSIBLE ARMED CLASH. THIS OF
COURSE IS SYNTHETIC FORMULATION OF ISSUE WHICH WE WILL BE
BEST ABLE TO COUNTER PROVIDED WE ARE CLEAR IN OUR OWN MINDS
AS TO FAR REACHING SIGNIFICANCE OF EVEN INITIAL MOVES IN
DIRECTION RECOGNITION EAST GERMAN REGIME. IT IS FOR THIS
REASON EMBASSY DISTURBED BY INADEQUACY FORMULATION
PARA B NOTE 2.

WHITNEY

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